

**MONTANA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION
UTILITY DIVISION
AGENDA NO. 04-08-17**

Date Published: August 12, 2004
For Work Week Commencing: August 16, 2004
Commission Meeting: August 17, 2004, 9:00 a.m.

General Introduction This agenda is the Commission's Utility Division agenda for the work week designated. In the later part of each week (generally, Thursday by 2:00 p.m.) prior to the work week to which an agenda pertains, the agenda is posted on the public information bulletin board at the Commission offices, deposited in the mail directed to all persons who have properly requested notice by mail, emailed to all persons who have properly requested notice by email, and posted to the Public Service Commission's worldwide web site located at <http://www.psc.state.mt.us>.

Place of Meetings All meetings are held at the Commission offices, 1701 Prospect Avenue, Helena, Montana, unless otherwise noted.

Inquiries General inquiries concerning this Utility Division agenda and subscribing to notice by mail may be made to Kate Whitney at (406) 444-3056. She may refer inquiries to another person within the agency.

Accommodation for Persons with Disabilities Anyone needing an accommodation for physical, hearing, or sight impairment in order to attend a scheduled meeting should contact the Commission secretary at (406) 444-6199 sufficiently prior to the meeting to allow accommodations to be made.

9:00 a.m. Weekly Scheduling (Commission Conference Room)

9:30 a.m. Business (Bollinger Room)

Public Comments

Action Items All items identified below are for action at the Commission business meeting.

1. CENEX PIPELINE D2004.7.100 (JOEL)

On July 1, 2004, Cenex Pipeline filed an application to increase rates on all destination points based upon the FERC Oil Pipeline Index issued July 1, 2004. This represents a 3.16% increase in rates. A Notice of Application and Intervention Deadline was issued on July 8, 2004. No requests for intervention were received. Staff recommends approval.

2. FRONT RANGE PIPELINE D2004.7.101 (JOEL)

On July 1, 2004, Front Range Pipeline filed an application to increase rates on all destination points based upon the FERC Oil Pipeline Index issued July 1,

2004. This represents a 3.16% increase in rates. A Notice of Application and Intervention Deadline was issued on July 8, 2004. No requests for intervention were received. Staff recommends approval.

3. MDU RESOURCES GROUP Inc D2004.8.122 (Eric)

On August 2, 2004, MDU filed an application for authorization to issue an additional 400,000 shares of Common Stock in connection with the MDU Resources Group, Inc. Non-Employee Director Stock Compensation Plan. The purpose of the plan is to provide ownership of Common Stock to non-employee members of the Board of Directors. The Company intends to issue and sell the Common Stock until all the shares specified in this application have been issued. A Default Order has been drafted.

4. Qwest Communications, N2004.8.124 (Scott)

On August 4, 2004 Qwest filed tariff transmittal 04-011. In this filing Qwest proposes to remove Block Compromise Charges for Direct Inward Dialing (DID).

Work Sessions All items identified below are for Commission discussion or action on the day designated.

1. D2000.6.80 – Qwest – SGAT Exhibit B and QPAP Modifications. (8/17/04)
2. PSC – Discuss and Act on Draft Notice of Next CLEC Forum. (8/17/04)
3. D2004.2.21 – PSC – Investigation of 2000-2001 Electric Marketing Activity. (8/17/04)
4. D2003.4.50 – Energy West – Decision on Environmental Surcharge. (8/17/04)
5. D2004.3.47 – Cut Bank Gas – Interim Order on General Rate Increase. (8/17/04)
6. D2004.6.90 – NorthWestern Energy – Annual Default Supply Cost Tracker. (8/17/04)
7. NorthWestern Energy Bankruptcy – Placeholder to Report on and Get Direction on Any Matter Related to the Bankruptcy. (8/17/04)

8. D2003.1.14 – Western Wireless – Eligible Telecommunications Carrier Designation Petition. (8/17/04)

Other Meetings

8/19/04 – 6:00 p.m. – D2003.6.84 – EAS Lincoln Telephone Hearing (Lincoln, Lincoln School Library)

Weekly Scheduling – Will be held at 9:00 a.m. on the day of the Commission Meeting

Notice Items All items identified below are noticed for public participation purposes. Unless otherwise stated in the text of the notice, the items will be action items on the next following agenda or a subsequent agenda and participation may be had by submitting written comments to the Public Service Commission, 1701 Prospect Avenue, P.O. Box 202601, Helena, Montana, 59620-2601, within 5 calendar days following publication of this agenda. Public comments on a noticed matter may also be submitted within the required time through the PSC's web-based comment form at <http://psc.state.mt.us/PublicComment/PublicComment.htm>. Comments should reference the docket number of the matter.

1. Qwest, N2004.8.130 (Scott)

On August 10, 2004, Qwest filed tariff transmittal 04-12, Clarify Business Routing Language. This filing clarifies the term and conditions of Business Continuation routing by adding the phrase “from the forward switch”. The product has been recently enhanced with a Voice Response Unit (VRU) that allows the customer to activate their contingency routing at anytime and from any location. Qwest is requesting a September 1, 2004 effective date.

Information Items All items identified below are for information only.

New Filings Received in Past Week

D2004.8.126 – CenturyTel of Montana and Avika Communications – Application for Approval of Interconnection Agreement for Terms and Conditions for Interconnection

D2004.8.127 – VCI Company – Petition for Designation as an Eligible Telecommunications Carrier (“ETC”)

D2004.8.128 – Havre Pipeline – Application for Authority to Change Rate Schedule

D2004.8.129 – Utility Enterprises, Inc. – Application to Establish a New Private Water Company to service Rocky Cliff Estates

N2004.8.130 – Qwest Corporation – TT 04-12 – Clarify Business Continuation
Routing Language
D2004.8.131 – Energy West – Monthly Gas Cost Tracker Filing for 9/1/04